

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Barnhill Building, Old

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 301 North High Street _____ not for publication

city, town California _____ vicinity of congressional district #8-Hon. Richard H. Ichon

state Missouri code 029 county Moniteau code 135

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Not in Use |

4. Owner of Property

name Jack Crawford

street & number 701 East Smith Street

city, town California, _____ vicinity of state Missouri 65108

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Moniteau County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town California, _____ state Missouri 65108

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Is the Missouri State Historical Survey _____ has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes ☒ no

date _____ federal ☒ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program

city, town Jefferson City state Missouri 65102

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Dating to c. 1892, the red brick and cast iron embellished Barnhill Building at the northwest corner of Madison and North High Streets, California, Missouri, is a relatively unaltered commercial building that illustrates the persistence of Italianate design traditions in Missouri during the early 20th century. The Barnhill Building and adjacent commercial buildings that largely date to the 1880's-1890's and 1910's-1920's form a southern arm of the courthouse square business district¹, extending into a neighborhood of single family dwellings of widely varying dates.

The flat-roofed Barnhill Building is of load bearing construction resting on a coursed, quarry-faced limestone foundation, 25 feet by 60 feet. Red brick laid in common bond three stretcher courses deep forms the building's exterior walls, except at the primary elevation where structural cast iron posts underpin the brick wall of the upper story. A two story brick and frame addition of unknown date rises above a concrete foundation at the rear of the structure.

Contrasts in colors and materials between the white-painted cast iron elements from Scherpe and Koken, Ironworks, St. Louis, white wood sash and doors and the surmounting gray-painted brick wall dichotomize the primary elevation. An offset entrance providing direct access to the upper floor and a store front entrance recessed between display windows establish four bays of unequal widths at ground level. Cast iron pilasters and attenuated three-quarter round columns lend further definition to the bays.

Substantial pilasters richly incised and embossed with fluting, chevrons, volutes, disks, and beading and topped with Corinthian capitals mark the corners at ground level; the northernmost corner pier and its slender counterpart flank the paneled door of the upstairs entry. The adjacent store front focuses inward on a single, glazed door hung between side lights and below fixed, multi-paned window sash. The flanking reveals and bays, separated by partially fluted, attenuated columns with paterae-enriched bases and Corinthianesque capitals, contain paneled wooden baseboards, single and double-hung windows, decorative top rails and fixed window sash.

The curious lack of a decorative device to set off the stories and the presence of a single, second story aperture of sufficient size to contain a door strongly suggest that a balcony once separated the stories. All the unevenly fenestrated, second story openings frame double- and triple-hung windows underlined by cut stone lugsills and crowned with bracketed window heads composed of cavetto cornices accented with disks and rosette finials. The projecting roof line detailing, a composite of small, shaped and large, fluted and foliated brackets, a geometric-patterned frieze with cable and rosette bands and an overhanging cornice, elaborates on the craftsmanship of the cast iron ornamentation below, adding a decisive culmination to the principal elevation.

Corbeling at the stepped roof line and stilted arches with returns which cap the irregularly placed, segmentally arched door and window openings, articulate the secondary elevation on Madison Street.

The rear two story addition, consisting of a concrete basement extension with two vehicular entrances, a brick first story and a frame second story, dates to Dr. O'Banion's occupancy, that is from the late 1930's to the late 1970's. Conversion of the building from a funeral business into a medical office c. 1935 resulted in considerable interior modification at ground level; fortunately, the original staircases with turned balusters and newel posts and the second floor survive largely unchanged.

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Continuation sheet

BARNHILL BUILDING, OLD

Item number 7

Page 1

Footnotes

1. The Moniteau County Courthouse Square was enrolled in the National Register on October 15, 1979.

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> • other (specify) |

Specific dates c. 1892 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Old Barnhill Building, California, Missouri, is architecturally significant because it embodies characteristics of Italianate commercial construction, a building type still prevalent in small Missouri towns during the last quarter of the 19th century and the first decades of the 20th century. The building's craftsmanship and integrity of design confirm its importance as a paradigm of this reaction in taste to the austere commercial buildings of the Federal and Greek Revival periods that produced, as a consequence, rich, elegant architectural effects. The structure's physical integrity enhances its historical importance as an index of the town's commercial growth during the last decades of the 19th century and, more narrowly, as a home to a succession of locally important business establishments.

The Old Barnhill Building was constructed c. 1892 for insurance man William Barnhill. First used as a millinery shop and later, c. 1898, by the Acklin Jewelry Company, the structure was deeded to Barnhill's daughter, Ethel, in 1899.² The property was acquired c. 1921 from the Barnhill estate by C. F. Nischwitz presumably as an annex to the family furniture and undertaking establishment located on the north side of the courthouse square. C. F. Nischwitz was succeeded in business by his son, Edward C., whose civic contributions to California and Moniteau County include service as director of the Farmers and Traders Bank, City Councilman, and Mayor and Presiding Judge from 1914-22.⁴ Whether the Nischwitz actually conducted business in the buildings is unknown; the structure was sold within the year to Jack Bowlin who began the Bowlin Funeral Home at this address by the close of 1921.⁵ Perhaps briefly used as the Wilson Funeral Home during the early 1930's, the Old Barnhill Building was transferred to J. F. McDaniel in 1935 after Bowlin's default on loan payments.⁶ The structure was converted subsequently into medical offices by K. J. O'Banion, M.D., ending fourteen years of use for undertaking purposes. The doctor purchased the building two years later, modernizing and adding onto his office at unknown dates prior to the property's sale on October 3, 1977.⁷ Default on payments by the next owner resulted in the building's sale at auction to present owner, Jack Crawford, in December, 1978. Mr. Crawford hopes to qualify for the tax incentives available under the Tax Reform Act in the rehabilitation of the structure for apartment use.

Footnotes

1. Insurance map of California, Moniteau County, Missouri. (New York: Sanborn-Perris Map Co. Ltd., September 1892), Sheet 2.
2. Ibid, sheet 2: Insurance map of California, Moniteau County, Missouri (New York: Sanborn-Perris Map Co. Ltd., August 1898), sheet 2; and abstract of title, Jack Crawford, California, Missouri.
3. Abstract of title, Jack Crawford, California, Missouri; and Lucile Shivel McCollister "The Boonesborough Area", Moniteau County Historical Society, November 1971. (Type-written).

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OLD BARNHILL BUILDING

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Footnotes

4. J. F. Ford, A History of Moniteau County (California, Missouri: Marvin H. Crawford, 1936), p. 456-457.
5. "Moniteau County Fair Centennial, 1866-1966" (N.p.: n.p., 1966), p. 18, 25. State Historical Society, Columbia, Missouri.
6. Abstract of title, Jack Crawford, California, Missouri
7. Ibid.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Jack Crawford, California, Missouri, Abstract of Title.
2. Ford, J.F. A History of Moniteau County. California, Missouri: Marvin H. Crawford, 1936.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name "California North, Mo."

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

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Verbal boundary description and justification All of the South 25 feet of the East half of Lot 92 in Block No. 18 in the City of California, Missouri, as shown by the original plat of Boonsboro now the city of California, said Plat found in the Recorder's Office of said County and State.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| state | code | county | code |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title 1. Jack Crawford

organization

date June 4, 1980

street & number

701 East Smith Street

telephone

314/796-4743

city or town

California,

state

Missouri 65108

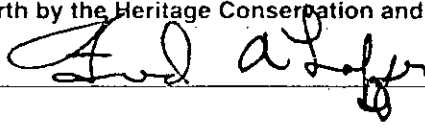
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title

date

16 Feb 82

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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OLD BARNHILL BUILDING

Continuation sheet

Item number

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Page 1

3. Insurance map of California, Moniteau County, Missouri. New York: Sanborn-Perris Map Co. Ltd., September 1892.
4. Insurance map of California, Moniteau County, Missouri. New York: Sanborn-Perris Map Co. Ltd., August 1898.
5. McCollester, Lucile Shivel. "The Boonesborough Area". Moniteau County Historical Society, November 1971. (Typewritten).
6. Souvenir of Moniteau County. California, Missouri: Moniteau County Herald, 1893.
7. State Historical Society, Columbia, Missouri. "Moniteau County Fair Centennial, 1866-1966". N.p.: n.p., 1966.

ITEM NUMBER

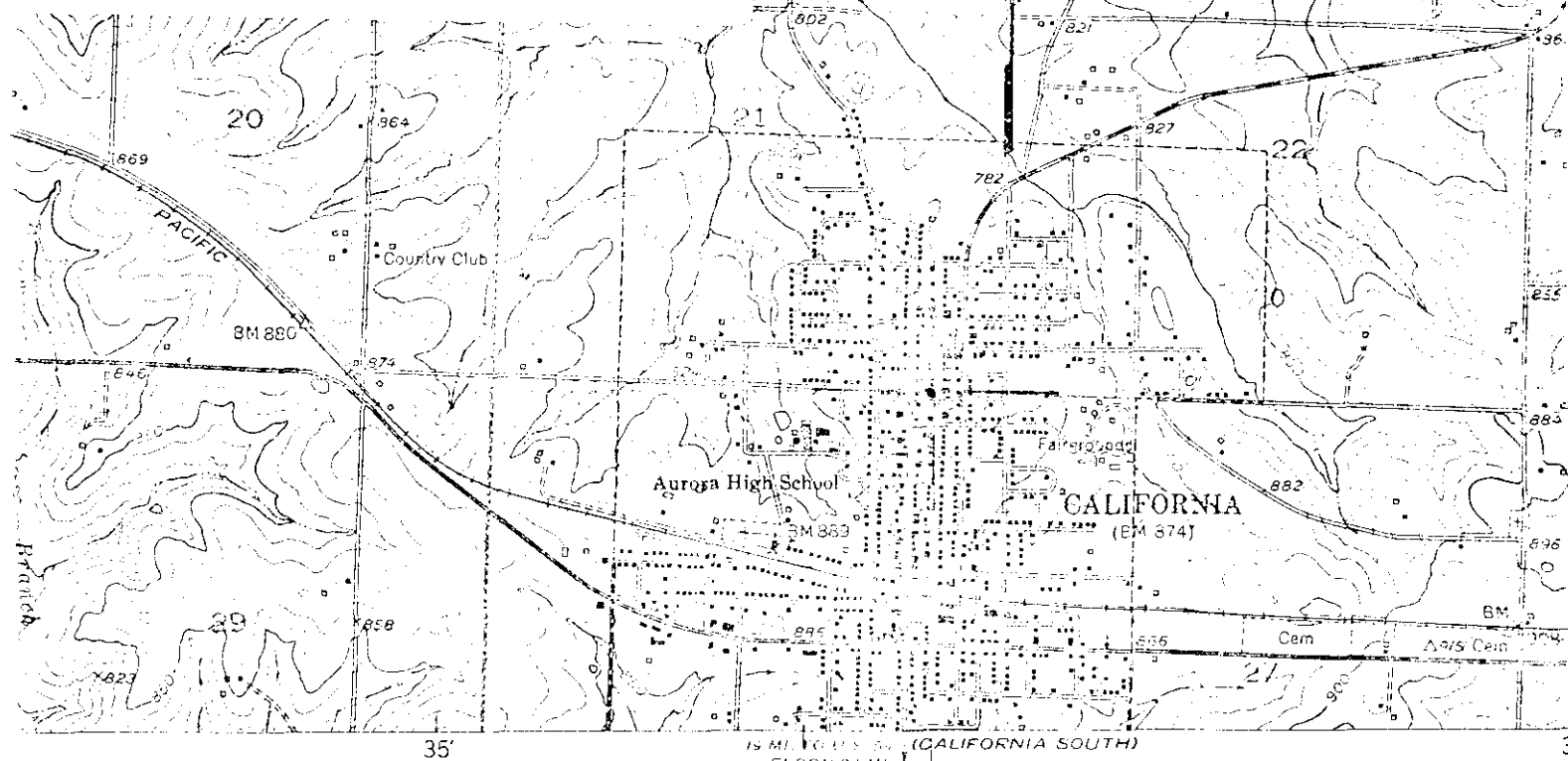
11

PAGE 1

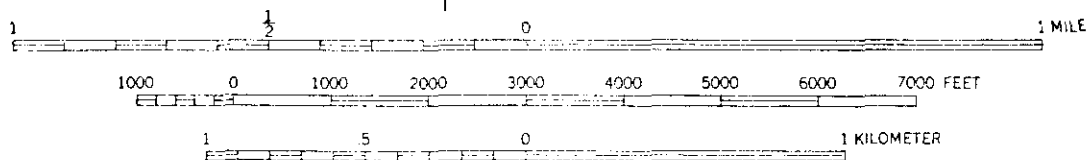
2. Jill Johnson, Architectural Historian
Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

314/751-4096

LONGITUDE:
92 33 56.00



SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

TRUE NORTH

MAGNETIC NORTH

6 1/2°

APPROXIMATE MEAN
DECLINATION, 1952

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, FEDERAL CENTER, DENVER, COLORADO OR WASHINGTON 25.
AND BY THE MISSOURI GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, ROLLA, MISSOURI
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

OLD BARNHILL BUILDING

#507

COUNTY:

Moniteau

LOCATION:

301 North High Street, California, Mo.

OWNER:
ADDRESS:

Jack Crawford
701 East Smith Street
California, Mo. 65108

DATE APPROVED BY A.C.:

October 24, 1980

DATE SENT TO D.C.:

February 23, 1982

DATE OF REC. IN D.C.:

March 10, 1982

DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER:

April 12, 1982

DATE CERTIFICATE AWARDED
(AND PRESENTOR):

DATE FILE REVIEWED:

The Old Barnhill Building, California, Missouri, is architecturally significant because it embodies characteristics of Italianate commercial construction, a building type still prevalent in small Missouri towns during the last quarter of the 19th century and the first decades of the 20th century. The building's craftsmanship and integrity of design confirm its importance as a paradigm of this reaction in taste to the austere commercial buildings of the Federal and Greek Revival periods that produced, as a consequence, rich, elegant architectural effects. The structure's physical integrity enhances its historical importance as an index of the town's commercial growth during the last decades of the 19th century and, more narrowly, as a home to a succession of locally important business establishments.

BARNHILL BUILDING, OLD
301 North High Street
California, Missouri

1 of 5

Photographer: Jack Crawford

Winter 1979-80

Neg. Loc.: Jack Crawford, 701 East Smith
Street, California, Missouri 65108

View of the Old Barnhill Building, looking
northwest.



Barnhill Building, 301 N. High Street, California, Mo.

BARNHILL BUILDING, OLD
301 North High Street
California, Missouri

2 of 5

Photographer: Jack Crawford

Winter 1979-80

Neg. Loc.: Jack Crawford, 701 East Smith
Street, California, Missouri 65108

View of the primary facade.



Barnhill Building, 301 N. High Street, California, Missouri

BARNHILL BUILDING, OLD
301 North High Street
California, Missouri

3 of 5

Photographer: Jack Crawford
August 1980

Neg. Loc.: Jack Crawford, 701 East Smith
Street, California, Missouri 65108

View of the rear addition and Madison Street
facade, looking east.



BARNHILL BUILDING, OLD 4 of 5
301 North High Street
California, Missouri

Photographer: Jack Crawford
August 1980

Neg. Loc.: Jack Crawford, 701 East Smith
Street, California, Missouri 65108

Detail of the primary facade, showing cast
iron pilasters with Corinthian capitals,
ornamental window heads and bracketed
cornice.



BARNHILL BUILDING, OLD
301 North High Street
California, Missouri

5 of 5

Photographer: Jack Crawford
August 1980

Neg. Loc.: Jack Crawford, 701 East Smith
Street, California, Missouri 65108

Roof line detail, showing cornice and hood
molding enrichment.







